

ISSUE DATE: 03-05-2004 [MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE REFORM](#) [WC MANDATORY REINSURANCE POOL STUDY](#) [TAX REFORM COMMITTEE HEARINGS](#) [PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INSURANCE DIVISION](#) [POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT PIA-OREGON!](#) [PAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE](#) PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. - LANA

Motor Vehicle Insurance Reform A proposal to study reform in 22 areas of motor vehicle insurance was put before the Oregon Law Commission (OLC), which could then recommend legislation. At their meeting on February 27, in a piece of wonderful political theater, lobbyists for the insurance industry and the trial lawyers asked the OLC to drop the proposal. Instead, a compromise was reached to form a work group to winnow down the "top 16" list to areas where consensus can be achieved. A report is due back on May 21. Former Rep. Lane Shetterly remains as chair of the OLC as a private member. [Back To Top](#)

WC Mandatory Reinsurance Pool Study Proponents of a Minnesota-style mandatory workers' compensation reinsurance pool asked for a budget note last session for a proposal to fund a study of this issue. After referral to substantive committees from the Emergency Board, the House committee voted "no" unanimously; the Senate committee failed to take action when proponents didn't show up. The WC Division is meeting with self-insureds to develop other alternatives.

[Back To Top](#) **Tax Reform Committee Hearings** The Joint Interim Tax Reform Committee is working its way around the state this week and next to ask for citizen input. Action seems unlikely, but Legislative Counsel has said that the legislature must meet in special session regardless of whether or not they can come up with a plan, as a result of HJR 42's passage last session. Rep. Tom Butler has been named to co-chair that committee to replace Rep. Shetterly. On a related matter, Rep. Wayne Krieger will replace former Rep. Max Williams as co-chair of the Joint Interim Judiciary Committee. [Back To Top](#)

Preliminary Discussions with the Insurance Division - PIAO/I has asked the Insurance Division to consider certain retail agent fees, such as for taking cash payments in the office. Ed Ellingsen, Ron Manza, Rich Kingsley, Steve Shields, Clark Sitzes and I presented the argument. This is a tough sell, but we remain hopeful.

- The issue of fair claim settlements in regard to non-English speaking situations came up in the last Insurance Division Advisory Committee meeting. PIAO/I served on a Division committee to discuss the subject. Gary Steffen, Steve Shields, Bob Ledoux, and Roman Zelenivskiy participated with me. We suggested that the Division consider writing a brief publication in Spanish and/or other languages regarding what clients can expect in the claims process, that agents could give to non-English speaking clients.

- An advisory committee on revisions to the credit score rules has been meeting. The formal rules process will begin soon. Some controversy is expected. Rules re: recoupment assessments are being changed and adopted permanently; an advisory committee is scheduled.

- PIAO/I thanks Michael Morter of the Insurance Division for his follow through in contacting the court system regarding client expectations who participate in the diversion program and believe nothing will appear on their driving record. It is possible that the court may revise its forms.

- I will attend a meeting on March 9 at the Oregon Insurance Division regarding federal versus state regulation.

[Back To Top](#) **Political Involvement** My thanks go to Rich Kingsley, Ronn Passmore, Rick Budke and others who are helping me put together a luncheon for Senate Republican Leader Roger Beyer with agents in Senate District 9 on March 17. Thanks again to Unitrin for working with me recently on a community event for Rep. Betsy Close. PIAO/I has reached out to other groups in the insurance lobby to see if we can work together on similar grassroots efforts. Filing

deadline day is March 9, and I will publish a chart of all legislative candidates who file. I will appreciate knowing if you are acquainted with any of the candidates. There are a whole of changes going on! We will need to work hard to get acquainted, and I will be asking for your help.

[Back To Top](#) **PIA-Oregon!-PAC Contributions To Date** PIAO/I is very grateful for contributions to our state level political action committee. This voluntary fund helps to give PIAO/I a voice in the legislative process. Watch for a booth at the convention manned by PAC Chair Dirk Fournier and myself. We'd love to talk to you about how important this effort is! As of March 2, 2004, contributors include:

Aloha Insurance Center - \$150

Lana Butterfield - \$250

Contractors Insurance Services - \$250

Corvallis Insurance Services, Inc. - \$250

Ed Ellingsen & Company - \$250

Hart Insurance - \$250

Hopp Insurance Agency, Inc. - \$250

KBI Insurance, Inc. - \$250

Leonard Adams Company - \$100

Northwest Physicians Mutual Insurance Co. - \$250

Gary Petrie - \$150

Pfaff-Karren Insurance, Inc. - \$250

Stewart & Tunno Insurance Agency - \$250

Stratton Insurance & Financial Services - \$250

Sublimity Insurance Company - \$250

Kelsey Wood - \$250

World of Insurance - \$250

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